alongwith the quantity of each of such essential commodities; and

(b) what is the share of the rural and the urban areas in these commodities?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA): (a) and (b) Seven essential commodities, namely, rice, wheat, levy sugar, imported edible oil, kerosene, soft coke and controlled cloth are being supplied through PDS outlets. PDS items are supplied to the States/U.Ts. as a whole. Internal distribution including the scales of issue to consumers is decided by the State Governments/UT Administrations concerned. *Inter-se* allocations as between urban/rural areas are also decided upon by State Governments/U.T. Administrations from time to time. Changes are made in the scale of issue of these items by the States/U.Ts. as and when found necessary depending upon the Central allocation and other relevant factors.

2177. [*Transferred to the 28th Marcch*, 1990].

Allotment of out of turn accommodation on the basis of recommendation of M.Ps.

2178. SHRI N. RAJANGAM: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of applications pending for allotment of accommodation as recommended by the Members of Parliament during the year 1990 till date;

(b) what action has been taken/proposed to be taken thereon; and

(c) by when Government propose to allot the accommodation to such employees?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) A large number of recommendations for allotment of accommodation are received every day from different quarters including Members of Parliament. Each recommendation is examined on its merits and disposed of. Consequently, it is difficult to prepare a list of all such large number of recommendations and indidate against each when the accommodation will be allotted or not.

Directorate of Estates of other agencies autonomous bodies

2179. SHRI N. RAJANGAM: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are some agencies/autonomous Bodies who have their own Directorate of Estates for allotment of quarters to their employees if so, what are their names and the dates of creation of each of those autonomous bodies and the reasons for creation of such separate pools;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Estates Officers of all the autonomous bodies are being governed by the same Rules and Regulations as has been laid down by the Directorate of Estates, Government of India; if so, whether out of turn allotment in such offices are made available to their employees; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the norms for retention of Government accommodation after retirement of the officials even for year together?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Completion of Chengannur Railway Station

2180. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM): Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present position in regard to the improvement of Chengannur Railways Station on Southern Railway;

(b) what is the amount which has been earmarked for the extension of Platform No. I;

(c) the progress so far achieved for roofing of the Platform Nos. 1 & 2 of Chengannur Station; and

(d) whether Government are taking necessary steps to complete the entire roofing of both Platforms during 1990-91?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Works relating to improvement of Chengannur Railway Station were carried out recently at a cost of Rs. 14 lakhs. In view of the growing passenger traffic it has been decided to further increase the passenger amenities at the station by providing additional 2nd class paid waiting hall and advance reservation facilities during 1990-91 subject to availability of funds.

(b) Extension of platform No. 1 was sanctioned during 1989-90 at a cost of Rs. 2.85 lakhs, but could not be progressed due to paucity of funds. Sufficient allocation will be made to complete this work during 1990-91.

(c) and (d) Adequate cover over platform No. 1 exists. For platform No. 2 the deficiency in the platform covering is proposed to be eliminated by extending the cover by 48 Metres during 1990-91 subject to availability of funds.

Child labour in the country

2181. SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of child labourers in the country; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take to stop the inhuman exploitation of children in various industries in the country?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) According to the 43rd round (during July, 1987 June, 1988) Survey of the National Sample Survey, the number of child labourers in the country is estimated to be about 17 million.

(b) The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 prohibits the employment of children below fourteen years of age in certain specified occupations and processes. It also seeks to regulate their conditions of work in employments in which they are not prohibited from working. There are provisions in several other labour laws such as the Factories Act, 1948; the Mines Act, 1952; the Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966; the Shops and Commercial Establishments Acts of the States/Union Territories; etc. which either prohibit or regulate the employment of children in specified areas. All these Acts are in force at present. Government have also formulated the National Policy on Child Labour -1987 which provides for a number of welfare measures to minimise the exploitation of working children.

Allotment of land to group housing societies in Delhi

2182. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 100 housing societies are waiting for the allotment of land in Papan Kalan in Delhi for more than 5 years;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and by when the same is likely to be allotted to these societies; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the promoters of these societies have complained to Government that DDA officials are deliberately delaying the allotment of the land in order to benefit the private coloniser; if so, what action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) The concentual plan of the Papan Kalan project has been recently approved by the Delhi Urban Art Commission. It is a big and long term project meant to accommodate one million